Assessment of telecom equipments

2119. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether telecom equipment requirement for 2010 has been assessed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner the demand would be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Telecom equipment requirement up to 2010 is expected to be about US$ 35 billion.

(c) As per the present assessment about 75% of the demand will be met by indigenous manufacturers and the rest will be met through imports.

Opening of new post offices in Rajasthan

2120. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Rajasthan, as on date;

(b) the number of requests pending with Government for opening of new post offices in various parts of Rajasthan, till date;

(c) the procedure adopted for opening a new post office after receipt of a request and how much time does it ordinarily take in its processing;-

(d) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened during the current year in the State;

(e) the reasons for not opening the new post offices requested for; and

(f) by when they would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 10408 Post Offices functioning in Rajasthan as on date.

(b) Two proposals have been received for opening of new post offices.

(c) to (f) On receipt of proposals for opening of post offices, the justification is examined as per prescribed population, distance and financial norms laid down by the Department. In consonance with the policy directives of Tenth Five Year Plan, no plan targets for opening of post offices are being allotted since the year 2004-05. However, justified Post Offices can be opened by way of relocation of existing post offices from locations where these are not justified as per norms. Since this is an ongoing process, no time limit can be prescribed for opening of new Post Offices in this manner.

National Telecom Policy 2006

2121. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has discussed the new National Telecom Policy, 2006;

(b) whether he also met cellular operators both GSM and CDMA and discussed infrastructure measures to improve the coverage and quality services without putting up more and more towers;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has set up a joint working group to deal with issues involved in infrastructure sharing which enables two or more competing cellular operators to emit radio signals from same towers; and

(d) if so, whether the group has already submitted its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. A Committee was constituted to recommend sharing of infrastructure in the city of Delhi on pilot basis.

(d) Yes, Sir. The project Mobile Operator's Shared Towers (MOST) recommend by the Committee is being implemented by the service providers.